

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PBOR, PN, US

SUBJECT:PERIODIC ACTIVITIES REPORT JULY 31-AUGUST 14

1. ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN IMPLEMENTATION. WE APPEAR CLOSE TO INFORMAL AGREEMENT WITH DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PROPOSED TEXT OF A STATE-DEFENSE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WHICH DESCRIBES THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF AND RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE AMBASSADOR AND THE ADMINISTRATOR. IN ADDITION, WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH DEFENSE ON THE TEXT OF A DECISION MEMORANDUM WHICH WOULD AMPLIFY THE DECISIONS RECENTLY MADE BY THE PRESIDENT CONCERNING ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR EFFECTING TREATY IMPLEMENTATION. WE WILL MAKE COPIES OF BOTH MEMORANDA AVAILABLE TO THE EMBASSY AS THEY ARE DEVELOPED.

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2. IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION. IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION WILL NOT GO FORWARD TO CONGRESS UNTIL THE NEXT SESSION. THE DECISION REFLECTS THE DESIRES OF THE LEADERSHIP AND CONCERN THAT INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS IN THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD. VARIOUS WAYS TO SPEED UP CONGRESSIONAL ACTION IN JANUARY ARE UNDER DISCUSSION HERE.

3. CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS. THE SENATE TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE VOTED DOWN (11 TO 5) THE FY78 SUPPLEMENTAL FOR

THE DARIEN GAP HIGHWAY. THIS EFFECTIVELY KILLS FOR THE MOMENT FURTHER FUNDING FOR THE HIGHWAY. THE HANSEN AMENDMENT TO THE STATE AUTHORIZATION BILL WAS DELETED AND THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE SUBSTITUTED: "NONE OF THE FUNDS HEREIN AUTHORIZED TO BE APPROPRIATED SHALL BE USED DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY TO EFFECT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL TREATIES OF 1978 UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY THE CONSTITUTION OR BY ACT OF CONGRESS." WE EXPECT THAT FRIENDLY SPOKESMEN IN BOTH HOUSES WILL EXPLAIN THE AMENDMENT ALONG THE LINES DESCRIBED IN THE ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS CABLE (STATE 204557).

4. MOVABLE PROPERTY DISPOSAL GUIDELINES. AS A FOLLOW UP TO THE WRITTEN COMMENTS BY VAKY AND COOPER ON THE PANAMA CANAL COMPANY PROPOSED GUIDELINES ON TRANSFER OF MOVABLE PROPERTY WHICH STRESSED THAT THE GUIDELINES SHOULD BE CLOSELY COORDINATED AMONG OTHER INTERESTED AGENCIES, WE ARE SEEKING TO DEVELOP A UNIFIED DEPARTMENT POSITION. DETAILS WERE FURNISHED IN STATE 205897; COPIES OF THE TWO LETTERS HAVE BEEN POUCHED.

5. FAA. ARA/PAN IS FOLLOWING UP ON MEETING OF AUGUST 3
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WITH DOD AND FAA. DOD CONTINUES TO HAVE A PROBLEM WITH A 5 YEAR LIMIT ON FAA ACTIVITIES IN PANAMA AND IS DRAFTING A PROPOSED DOD-FAA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO THE EFFECT THAT THE AGREEMENT CAN BE EXTENDED IF THE U.S. FEELS IT WOULD BE NECESSARY.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL SEMINAR. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST BY CONGRESSMAN METCALFE, THE OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT HELD A TWO-DAY SEMINAR TO REVIEW THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF THE TREATIES. AMBASSADOR POPPER AND MONTY SPEAR ATTENDED THE OPENING SESSION. SUMMARY OF SESSION CONTAINED IN MINUTES OF THE WORKING GROUP POUCHED SEPARATELY.

7. PANAMA'S FINANCIAL SITUATION. ECP HAS WRITTEN A FAVORABLE PROGNOSIS ON PANAMA'S FINANCIAL SITUATION ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE GOP WILL CONTINUE ITS PRUDENT FISCAL AND DEBT MANAGEMENT POLICIES (COPY POUCHED). VANCE

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